

Diesel Technician

DO YOU LIKE:

- ♦ Troubleshooting and fixing problems?
- ♦ Working with your hands?
- ♦ Talking to people?
- ♦ Thinking creatively to solve complex problems?
- ♦ Learning and using new technologies?



Title	Inexperienced Wage	Average	Median	Middle Range	Training
Bus & Truck Mechanics & Diesel Engine Specialists	\$13.81	\$18.49	\$18.39	\$15.36 - \$21.61	Post Secondary Vocational Training

JOB OUTLOOK

People who enter diesel engine repair will find **favorable** opportunities, especially as the need to replace workers who retire increases over the next decade. Opportunities should be very good for people who complete formal training in diesel mechanics at community colleges or vocational and technical schools. Applicants without formal training will face stiffer competition for jobs.

And because diesel engines are now cleaner burning and more efficient—to comply with emissions and environmental standards—they are expected to be used in more passenger vehicles, which will create jobs for diesel service technicians and mechanics over the long run.

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Repair and maintain the diesel engines that power transportation equipment
- Work on other heavy vehicles and mobile equipment, including bulldozers, cranes, road graders, farm tractors, and combines
- Repair diesel-powered passenger automobiles, light trucks, or boats
- Handle all kinds of repairs, working on a vehicle's electrical system one day and doing major engine repairs the next
- Work on microprocessors that regulate and manage fuel timing, increasing engine efficiency
- Retrofit engines with emissions control systems, such as emission filters and catalysts, to comply with pollution regulations
- Use hand-held or laptop computers to diagnose problems and adjust engine functions
- Follow a checklist that includes inspecting brake systems, steering mechanisms, wheel bearings, and other important parts
- Repair or adjust parts or remove and replace parts that cannot be fixed
- Use power tools, such as pneumatic wrenches that remove bolts quickly; machine tools, such as lathes and grinding machines to rebuild brakes; welding and flame-cutting equipment to remove and repair exhaust systems; and jacks and hoists to lift and move large parts
- Use handtools—screwdrivers, pliers, and wrenches—to work on small parts and get at hard-to-reach places
- Use a variety of computerized testing equipment to pinpoint and analyze malfunctions in electrical systems and engines

DIESEL TECHNICIAN CAREERS



WORKING CONDITIONS

- Most service technicians work a standard 40-hour week, although some work longer hours, particularly if they are self-employed. A growing number of shops have expanded their hours to speed repairs and offer more convenience
- Technicians employed by truck and bus firms providing service around the clock may work evenings, nights, and weekends.
- Must be able to lift heavy parts and tools
- Must be able to stand or lie in awkward positions while making repairs
- Must be able to see clearly up close
- May work as a team or be assisted by an apprentice or helper when doing heavy work, such as removing engines and transmissions

EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS

- Mechanical aptitude
- Problem-solving skills
- Technical skills
- Computer skills
- Vehicle safety and inspection skills
- Preference for hiring graduates of formal training programs because those workers are able to advance quickly to the journey level of diesel service
- Commercial drivers license to test-drive trucks or buses on public roads

FOR TRAINING

Bridgerland Applied Technology College

<http://batc.edu/programs.html>

College of Eastern Utah

<http://www.ceu.edu/departments/default.aspx>

Davis Applied Technology College

<http://www.datc.edu/programs>

Salt Lake Community College

<http://www.slcc.edu/areasofstudy/>

Salt Lake Tooele Applied Technology College

<http://www.sltatc.org/programs/index.php>

Snow College

<http://www.snow.edu/general/divisions.html>

Uintah Basin Applied Technology College

<http://www.utatc.tec.ut.us/>

Utah Valley University

<http://www.uvsc.edu/techcom/departments/index.html>

High School

CTE Programs: www.utahcte.org

Related Job Info: <http://careers.utah.gov>

<http://jobs.utah.gov>

Build your own Diesel Technician Career Ladder



Picture yourself here!

Occupation _____

Inexperienced wage per hour: \$ _____

Required training/experience: _____

Target completion date: _____

Training institution: _____

Funding: _____

Occupation _____

Inexperienced wage per hour: \$ _____

Required training/experience: _____

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